

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. In the present amendment, claim 4 has been amended and new claim 6 has been added. Therefore, after entry of the present amendment, claims 1-6 will be subject to examination.

In the Claims

A. *The Rejection of Claims 1-5*

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Guise, US 4,121,902. This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the following reasons.

Guise discloses polymer mixtures for the treatment of textile materials. Such mixtures contain three or more compounds, of which one compound (compound B) is described as containing "a water miscible organic solvent of at least one polymer containing on average two or more carbamoyl sulphonate salt groups of the type $-NH-COSO_3^-X^+$." See Guise at col. 1, lines 22-50.

Guise provides no teaching or suggestion that his process may be performed without utilizing carbamoyl sulphonate salt groups, but instead the use of carbamoyl sulphonate salt groups appears to be at the core of Guise's invention. See, for example, Guise at col. 1, lines 11-21; or at Examples I-XI.

Contrary to that, none of Applicant's claims 1-5 recites the use of carbamoyl sulphonate salt groups. Accordingly, the methods and compositions of Applicant's claims 1-5 are different from those disclosed by Guise, and there is no teaching or suggestion in Guise of the methods and blend recited in Applicant's claims 1-5.

Concerning process temperatures, the Office Action also has remarked that Guise teaches a process having a step performed at room temperature followed by a step performed at a higher temperature. In order to prevent confusion, claim 4 has been amended to recite "a temperature" instead of "temperatures," to indicate that a process at a single temperature is claimed.

B. *The Rejection of Claim 4*

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Guise in view of FR 1.452.591. Guise has been discussed in the preceding paragraphs. The Office Action has remarked that Guise does not teach applying bisulfite at 100°C, and that FR 1.452.591 provides the step missing in Guise. This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

FR 1.452.591 teaches a process for treating wool that includes a first step of treating the wool with a peracid water solution or with a permanganate water solution, and a second step of treating the wool with a water solution of di- or tri-isocyanuric acid, or with a salt thereof. See FR 1.452.591 at page 1, first column, paragraphs (a) and (b). FR 1.452.591 also discloses an optional step, in which the wool is treated with a sulfuric product such as sodium bisulfite. See FR 1.452.591 at page 2, col. 1, paragraph beginning with "On effectue ordinairement..."

As shown previously, the Guise process requires the use of carbamoyl sulphonate salt groups. FR 1.452.591 fails to fill the deficiencies of Guise.

In addition, FR 1.452.591 teaches that sodium bisulfite is applied at the end of the process and not as a reducing step for preparing the wool to the application of successive products. Therefore, the process disclosed in FR 1.452.591 is contrary not only to Applicant's teachings but also to the teachings of Guise, which discloses that sodium bisulfite is applied during an optional pretreatment step. See Guise at col.10, lines 20-29. Therefore, a person skilled in the art would have had no motivation to combine Guise and FR 1.452.591 because these references contradict one another with regard to the application of the bisulfite.

In view of the foregoing, the withdrawal of all rejections under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

C. *New Claim 6*

New claim 6 is fully supported in the specification, for example, in the Example.

Conclusion

It is believed that all objections and rejections in the application have been addressed, and that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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